



Graham County CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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August 17, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The Graham County Chamber of Commerce represents nearly 400 civic-minded businesses in southeastern Arizona working year round to support efforts to make Graham County a great place to live, work, and raise a family. In addition to our efforts to support area business development and growth, the Chamber serves as an advocate for policies and programs to help preserve and enhance the quality lifestyle enjoyed by the citizens of Graham County.

As you know, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is in the process of evaluating the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile corporations. After giving this issue careful consideration, the Graham County Chamber of Commerce believes the merger would provide significant economic benefits to Graham County and other rural communities in our state. We strongly urge the FCC to grant its approval.

The merger is expected to provide an additional \$8 billion for the expansion and improvement of existing wireless networks and infrastructure. This funding is crucial, as it will make it possible for the companies to dramatically expand the reach of AT&T's high-speed 4G wireless network to reach an additional 55 million consumers. This is wonderful news for rural communities, which lack access to the high-speed wireless networks critical to attracting and retaining businesses in an increasingly competitive global economy.

Our area has been successful in attracting good paying jobs in the mining industry. At the same time, we recognize the need to attract light manufacturing and other businesses that would strengthen and diversify our local economy. The merger will bring wireless broadband to rural communities like ours, making it easier for us to attract new businesses and achieve our goals of economic growth and job creation.

Bringing high-speed mobile broadband to our region is one of our top economic development priorities.

The AT&T and T-Mobile merger will help to ensure businesses and residents in our community have access to modern high-speed wireless broadband networks. The Graham County Chamber

*Life the way it
ought to be...*

of Commerce is pleased to offer its support of the AT&T and T-Mobile merger and we urge the commissioners to keep rural communities like ours in mind when making their decision on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Freestone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marie Freestone, CEO
Graham County Chamber of Commerce

CC:

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell